

Serial No. 09/695,898

2

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method ~~for splicing a second compressed video stream into a first compressed video stream, the method~~ comprising:
 - receiving the a first compressed video stream;
 - determining a first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream;
 - encoding a second video stream in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to generate a second compressed video stream, ~~wherein the encoding is depends on~~ having a second encoding profile which approximately matches the first encoding profile of the ~~first compressed video stream~~; and
 - splicing the second compressed video stream into the first compressed video stream to produce a spliced stream.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding of the second video is controlled such that ~~a the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream is similar to~~ approximately matches the first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream at approximately a point in time when the second compressed video stream is spliced into the first compressed video stream.

320956-1

Serial No. 09/695,898

3

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the encoding of the second video is further controlled such that the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream is similar to approximately matches the first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream at approximately a point in time when the first compressed video stream is spliced back into the spliced stream.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein splicing includes initially multiplexing the first compressed video stream as an output video stream; multiplexing the second compressed video stream as the output video stream at a point in time when the inserting is to be achieved; and splicing the second compressed video stream to the first compressed video stream.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising: pausing the first compressed video stream for a time that represents a duration of the second compressed video stream.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving a second control signal indicative of a second time period within which the splicing is to be performed; and initiating the encoding of the second video in response to receiving the second control signal.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising: buffering the second compressed video stream prior to splicing.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second video relates to an advertisement and the first compressed video stream relates to a program video.

320956-1

Serial No. 09/695,898

4

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first encoding profile for ~~the first compressed video stream~~ includes bit rate information related to the first compressed video stream.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the bit rate information includes a high bit rate, a low bit rate, and a mean bit rate determined over a particular time period.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the first encoding profile for ~~the first compressed video stream~~ further includes video buffering verifier (VBV) buffer information used for the encoding.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second video is encoded in accordance with an MPEG encoding scheme.

14. (currently amended) A system operative to splice a second compressed video stream into a first compressed video stream, comprising:

a profiler configured to receive the first compressed video stream and to provide a first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream;

a real time encoder coupled to the profiler and configured to receive and encode a second video in accordance with a particular encoding scheme ~~and further with a profile similar to the profile of the first compressed video stream~~ to generate the second compressed video stream having a second encoding profile approximately matching the first encoding profile, ~~and wherein the real time encoder is further configured to control the encoding of the second video based at least in part on the profile of the first compressed video stream~~; and

a splicer operatively coupled to the real time encoder and operative to receive the second and first compressed video streams and to splice the second compressed video stream into the first compressed video stream.

320956-1

Serial No. 09/695,898

5

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising:
a buffer coupled to the real time encoder and the splicer and configured to receive and buffer the first compressed video stream from the real time encoder.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the profiler is further configured to receive the second compressed video stream and provide a the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream.
18. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream includes bit rate information related to the second compressed video stream.
19. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the real time encoder is further configured to control the encoding of the second video such that a the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream is similar to approximately matches the first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream at approximately a point in time when the second compressed video stream is spliced into the first compressed video stream.
20. (currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the real time encoder is further configured to control the encoding of the second video such that the second encoding profile for the second compressed video stream is similar to approximately matches the first encoding profile for the first compressed video stream at approximately a point in time when the first compressed video stream is spliced back into the second compressed video stream.

320956-1